"The roots of Tacoma General Hospital are buried deep in the religious faith of its founders. The hospital today continues to recognize the importance of meeting the spiritual needs of patients as well as the physical, psychological and social needs. . . . Bishop John Paddock (originally) expressed the goal of the Fannie C. Paddock Memorial Hospital (Tacoma General Hospital) in terms of the establishment of a 'house of mercy in this land'. . ."

The Board of Directors,
Tacoma General Hospital

The Chapel window was created by local artist, Mr. Gary Pedersen.

Dedicated September 7, 1978

MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Tacoma General Hospital

THE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

For a number of years this Chapel has been a dream of many people. Employees, patients, physicians, students, volunteers, and friends—all have shared in that dream. To all those whose gifts and prayers have made this Chapel a reality and to those in whose names the gifts were given, we dedicate the Memorial Chapel of Tacoma General Hospital.

THE CHAPEL WINDOW

Few messages of scripture have meant as much to as many people as the Twenty-third Psalm.* It has been read or repeated from memory by countless people here in this hospital and in their homes. To each it has brought a sense of God's love, His presence through life's struggles and hurts, and His promise and hope. This Chapel, and especially the window at its center, have been created upon the theme of the Twenty-third Psalm.

The warmth and comfort of the Chapel itself, as well as the beauty of nature seen in the foreground of the window, speak of God's presence and comforting love in all things. The middle ground of the window represents the uncertainty or pain which life seems to bring to us all. The upper portion of the window represents God's triumph both now and in the future.

Our hope is that the promises of the Twenty-third Psalm will be made yours as you meditate here today.

*In some versions of the Bible the Twenty-third Psalm is numbered the Twenty-second Psalm.

"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

God's love is given <u>in</u> creation and <u>to</u> all creation. He is present in our every breath, in the healing power of our bodies, and in the beauties of the world around us. To experience his power we need only stop. . . and look . . . and listen.

"YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL: FOR THOU ART WITH ME; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

Life seems to bring with it a share of fear, loneliness, pain, and discouragement. We all know feelings of guilt, of sorrow, and of regret over missed opportunities and wasted abilities. In a hospital we become especially aware of sickness and possibility of death. We don't want to be told these realities do not exist; but we do want to know that God is facing them with us.

"SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE: AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER."

Faith brings with it hope and the certainty that our future is in God's hands. His presence in all of creation, even though it may be obscured for awhile in the "valley of the shadow," is still the greatest reality of our lives. The light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never overcome it.